



Steve Brine's WINCHESTER POST

Another 100% positive publication produced at no cost to local taxpayers by Conservative MP Steve Brine and the team. It is delivered by volunteers across the City of Winchester, Kings Worthy, Alresford and surrounding villages.



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GOLDEN AGE FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

MP hails success and launches new campaign

Local MP Steve Brine says schools in his Winchester constituency are among the best in the country but believes they can be even better.

He points to ‘stunning’ new provision in the city, leading results among Hampshire schools and a ‘world-class’ new Academy at Barton Farm.

“Five years ago we had a real problem in Winchester with primary places but our campaign led to a £10m investment and the resulting new Lower School at Westgate is nothing short of stunning. Visiting there this Summer I was blown away by the sheer quality of the new provision.”

On top of this we have the emerging Barton Farm Academy where Steve is a board member. He adds; “The agreed designs promise a world-class building with impeccable eco-credentials and the strongest education foundation from its sponsor, the University of Winchester.”

Hampshire is ranked an ‘outstanding’ education authority while local GCSE results across our secondary schools were this year once again some way ahead of the probable national average for 5 or more A* – C grades including maths and English.

FUTURE IN MIND



Ministers have confirmed a major investment in improving children’s mental health services.

The funding is part of a £1.25bn package which will be allocated to children and adolescent mental

health services with a specific focus tackling eating disorders.

Steve Brine recently met up with Winchester based FIXERS at the House of Commons to receive a special report on the subject on behalf of the Department of Health.

More: www.stevebrine.com/mentalhealth

Steve chatting with and answering questions from the children of Oliver’s Battery School. After a turbulent few years, the school is being turned around under new leadership.



f40 CAMPAIGN

Steve Brine is part of a national campaign arguing for a new funding formula to deliver a fairer deal for local schools.

The MP, who is a patron of the cross-party f40 campaign, highlights research showing the ten best funded areas will receive grants of £6,300 per pupil this year compared with £4,269 in the Winchester constituency.

More: www.stevebrine.com/issues

NEWS

from the House

IN BRIEF

2% DEFENCE SPEND VICTORY

Steve Brine warmly welcomed the announcement in the Summer Budget that the government has committed to allocating 2% of GDP on our defence.

The MP has consistently lobbied the Chancellor on the NATO promise and remains clear that if we need to spend more on national security, the funds should be made available.

ARMY DEATHS RAISED AT PMQs

Steve Brine raised the death of Lance Corporal Edward Maher, from Winchester, with the Prime Minister at PMQs recently.



Lance Corporal Maher died in July 2013 alongside two colleagues while taking part in an SAS selection exercise on the Brecon Beacons. A subsequent inquest identified serious MOD failings. Mr Brine called for the government to do whatever it takes to prevent future tragedies and will shortly facilitate a meeting between families and the Minister responsible.

SUMMER BORN CAMPAIGN WIN

Parents of school-age (and soon to be) Summer-born children will be interested in a late-night Commons debate Steve Brine spoke in this September.

Steve says; "I have been a consistent supporter of a change in the Department for Education guidelines on when the state insists children start primary school and it seems we are getting somewhere. The Government plans to consult later this year on a change which is very welcome."

More: www.stevebrine.com/summerborn

PROMOTION FOR MP

Winchester's MP has spoken of a 'fantastic opportunity' having been promoted to the role of Parliamentary Private Secretary (PPS) to the Secretary of State for Health, Jeremy Hunt.

Steve Brine said; "Sadly, it means that I will not be able to chair the All Party Group for Breast Cancer any more, but what does excite me is that I will be able to take part in those meetings with my government hat on, and therefore should be able to have even more influence in that area."

Westminster Report

As the evenings draw in, May's General Election seems like a long time ago but it's worth remembering it was only five months since the Government was elected and we're certainly not hanging around.

Our approach has been rather old-fashioned; to set about delivering the manifesto upon which we were elected, line-by-line! That includes further raising the income tax limit, publishing a Bill to deliver 30-hours of free childcare a week for working parents, funding our NHS by an extra £8bn, legislating for that EU referendum and

introducing for the first time a National Living Wage.

October's party conference was workmanlike and rightly so. I was there and thought the Prime Minister delivered his strongest speech in many years, putting compassionate conservatism at the heart of this Government and anchoring us firmly in the moderate centre-ground of British politics. It's the only place for me!

More: www.stevebrine.com/westminster

'LEGAL HIGHS' LEGISLATION AT LAST

The government is poised to introduce legislation to tackle so-called 'legal highs' following confirmation in the Queen's Speech of a 'Psychoactive Substances Bill'.



Local MP Steve Brine has consistently campaigned for action and the Bill, which has already been through the Lords, will make its way to the Commons this autumn.

Steve says; "I have spoken publicly, as well as inside Government during my time at the Home Office, of the urgent need for new legislation in this area. Groups such as Angelus, the Amy Winehouse Foundation and Winchester's own Baseline Training deserve great credit for getting us to this point.

"These substances are an increasing problem in society, and we've seen huge concern this year in Winchester city centre, but they are also now a serious threat inside our prisons where substances such as 'Spice' are literally wasting lives. There is a need to look at wider drugs policy as well, which is just not working in my opinion, but this is welcome start."

More: www.stevebrine.com/legalhighs

TACKLING TERRORISM

Winchester MP Steve Brine spoke in the Commons recently on the subject of so-called 'Islamic State' following the Tunisian terror attacks and the refugee crisis across Europe.

The MP challenged the Prime Minister over Tunisian domestic security arrangements for British tourists and welcomed the 'sensible and measured' advice given by the Foreign Office.

He also took part in a discussion on BBC Radio 4 and made the argument for a 'whole

community response', where all faiths and parts of society take active responsibility for tackling extremism, particularly at its root.

As the migrant crisis took hold this Summer, and Britain pledged to take 20,000 Syrian refugees, Mr Brine also spoke of the 'generous' response he expected from constituents and started a debate around the 'moral obligation' our country now has to join the military coalition operating across the area.

WINACC IN THE HOUSE

Representatives from Winchester Action on Climate Change (WinACC) lobbied Parliament recently ahead of key climate talks in Paris this December.

Key topics for the group when they met MP Steve Brine included how the government can make the most of the Paris talks and deliver a legally binding global climate deal limiting global temperature rises to below 2 degrees.

Steve said; "It is always a pleasure to meet WinACC and now their

impressive new Chair Tony Stoller because they are, on the whole, pragmatic and focused campaigners. The UK already takes a leading role on the world stage and is working towards a binding global deal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and manage climate change. I have subsequently met with the Secretary of State to discuss her approach to Paris and to argue for deforestation to be high on the British Government's agenda at the talks."

More: www.stevebrine.com/greenwinchester

VISITING PARLIAMENT... AND PMQs



All smiles; the group from Weeke Primary School visiting back in June.

Weeke Primary School visited Parliament this Summer continuing Steve Brine's long tradition of welcoming local groups to Westminster.

The children took a tour of the Palace of Westminster before holding a Q&A session with the MP who said; "This was my first school tour since the election and I really enjoyed having them. Everyone asked a question and they had clearly worked hard to be ready for me.

"Hosting schools in Parliament is one of the best parts of the job and I would encourage any who've not made the trip yet to get in touch. We can promise a unique day out."

Steve has also once again thrown open his allocation of PMQs tickets to constituents and is inviting entries now for Wednesday 6th January 2016. He can also arrange for you or your group to enjoy a guided tour of the Houses of Parliament.

More: www.stevebrine.com/visitingwestminster



SUMMER 2015

It's been a busy Summer for Steve Brine, who as well as carrying out his casework and day-to-day work, has supported some fantastic local events.



With our Mayor and the team at the re-opening of the Scouts Log Cabin in Fulflood.



Opening the Gratton Festival in Sutton Scotney with the kids.



Pulling pints at the Micheldever Fete.

A suitcase full of cash for Dragon's Den with National Citizen Service class in Winchester.



Fly-fishing (of sorts) in Ovington.

See what Steve's been up to in your neighbourhood: www.stevebrine.com/whereyoulive



PROGRESS ON STATION ACCESS AND TICKETS



Steve Brine examines the plans on-site with Mark Swindall from Osborne.

Winchester MP Steve Brine continues to work hard on rail issues in the city, following up on many of the issues raised at his successful AskSWT event in November 2013.

Safe access to the station was one key issue and the MP met with representatives from Osborne Property Services this Summer to discuss the roadway linking the station with Andover Road.

He says; "Development of the former Hunts Foodstuffs site, most probably for the University of Winchester, is good news but it will require a little more coordination to ensure this key access route to the station is made safe for cars, cyclists AND pedestrians.

"Huge credit to Osborne who have shown great patience to pick this up and get the improved access back on track as part of their planning application. I'm continuing to work hard bringing everyone together so we can get this moving again."

In other rail news, Steve Brine fought hard to see flexible season tickets for part-time commuters included in the Conservative manifesto this year and the Department for Transport is now working to introduce flexible ticketing products as soon as possible following the roll out of smart ticketing in 2016 and 2017.

More: www.stevebrine.com/trains

MEETING THE BUSINESS OF THE YEAR

Emissions reduction firm RJM International scooped the prestigious Business of the Year prize at the Winchester Business Excellence Awards earlier in the year.

Winchester MP Steve Brine presented them with their trophy at the Guildhall ceremony in June and visited company MD John Goldring at their new Parchment Street HQ last month.

The MP was able to learn more about their work in the UK and abroad as well as receive a briefing on current Government energy policy. He says; "RJM are another fantastic example of a top quality company right in the heart of our city and are rare in Winchester terms as a manufacturing business. It was good to see them recognised at the BiD/Chamber event this year."



Denplan's Stephen Gates with Steve Brine and John Goldring at the Awards.

More: www.rjm-international.com

PITT VALE DECISION IMMINENT



Steve Brine with local campaigner for the area, Gavin Dick.

A decision is due on a planning application from Linden Homes for building at Pitt Vale, amid huge opposition from local representatives and residents.

MP Steve Brine and Cllr Jan Warwick have led the fight against what has been described as a 'cheeky and speculative' application from the developers. "Not only because of the impact the scheme would have on local infrastructure", says Jan, "but also because Winchester already has a signed-off local plan and this site is not part of that. As well as working with

Steve, I have been working hard with my colleague Gavin Dick to oppose this."

Steve adds; "I am very clear that Winchester is doing its bit to address housing need, not least with Barton Farm and Pitt Manor already agreed. Local Plan Part Two is the right process and that is ongoing at this time. This new development would significantly reduce the quality of life for local people in an already congested part of the city."

A decision from planners is expected in October 2015.

More: www.stevebrine.com/pittvale

NEWS IN BRIEF



THANK YOU!

Steve Brine has thanked his constituents after he was returned to Parliament this May with a majority of nearly 17,000.

Once again, the turnout from Winchester & Chandler's Ford was among the highest in the UK, coming in at 74.6%, and Steve put his victory down to his 100% positive local campaign alongside hard work over the past five years.

He said: "It was a huge privilege to represent this constituency once but to be allowed to do it again is incredible. I will continue to work my socks off for the area."

Watch: www.stevebrine.com/GE2015

BULLINGTON CROSS

Proposals from EDF Energy to install 14 wind turbines taller than Winchester Cathedral at Bullington Cross have finally been seen off.

The Government is phasing out subsidies for further onshore wind farms and has strengthened the voice of local communities in opposing them, and following huge local objection, including from the three affected local planning authorities, EDF withdrew the application.

More: www.stevebrine.com/bullingtoncross

ASSISTED DYING BILL

MP Steve Brine received representations from hundreds of constituents on both sides of the recent Assisted Dying vote in the House of Commons, held in September.

Steve, who voted against the Bill having a Second Reading, said the debate showed the Commons 'at its best'. He told the House he felt the current DPP guidelines on whether to prosecute under the Suicide Act 1961 are still fit for purpose and ensuring the current law operates as intended.

MPs voted by 330 votes to 118 votes against progressing the Bill.

Read/watch: www.stevebrine.com/assisteddying



ALRESFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL

Steve Brine joined friends and family at the annual Alresford Music Festival this Summer as yet another hugely successful event was held at Arlebury Park in the town.

Steve said; "We all love this event which is perfectly formed for young families. Ken Veitch and the team have achieved something really remarkable with this event which I hope will be the perfect springboard to a lifetime of festival going for my kids and many others." Next year's event takes place on Saturday 11th June 2016.

More: www.alresfordmusicfestival.com

Even more
NEWS
IN BRIEF



Steve and Marty hanging around at the Bar End site.

NEW CLIMBING PROJECT

St Cross resident Marty Orton has unveiled a new community climbing wall project in Winchester.

Marty told The Winchester Post: "Winchester really deserves and needs a climbing centre, one that welcomes children, families and young people. It's not just about climbing, we want to see a space that really encourages children to play wild, is built sustainably and, importantly, run by the community it serves."

More: www.bemountain.co.uk



GENERATION BUY

The Prime Minister announced a home-owning revolution at October's party conference – from Generation Rent to Generation Buy.

Speaking in Manchester he said; "When a generation of hardworking men and women in their 20s and 30s are waking up each morning in their childhood bedrooms – that should be a wake-up call for us.

"That is why we are announcing a dramatic shift in housing policy. Those old rules which said to developers: you can build on this site, but only if you build affordable homes for rent. We're replacing them with new rules: you can build here, and those affordable homes can be available to buy."

WORTHYS FESTIVAL

The Worthys Festival returned this September and once again saw local people enjoy a week-long festival of music and community events.

There were open gardens, guided walks and a flower and produce show as well as a spectacular firework display on the final evening.

Steve says; "The family and I enjoyed the fun-day on the opening Saturday of the festival and send a big well done to all the organisers for another classic community festival."

More: www.worthysfestival.com

FOOD UP FRONT



A new community food enterprise has started in Otterbourne empowering us all to work on a healthy and fair food system.

Steve Brine met (pictured right) the driving force behind the 'Food Up Front' project, Seb Mayfield, who told him how he will bring a former market garden back in to use, with the aim of producing fresh food while providing training & volunteering opportunities.

Elderfield consists of approximately seven acres of land and houses eight poly-tunnels of various sizes, numerous large raised beds and a field. The site is owned by the Langley House Trust, a charity that support ex-offenders or people at risk of offending.

Seb Mayfield says; "I visited Elderfield in 2014 when undertaking a piece of work for the Winchester Basics Bank on creating a more just local food system. When I found out that they had land



available which had previously been used for a market garden, the potential was obvious."

Steve Brine adds; "The whole concept of a community food enterprise is really current and Food Up Front is really ahead of its time. I think we're very lucky to have them here and hope to see it develop through the new community led working group as well as become something the residents at Elderfield can access as part of their crucial rehabilitation back into society."

TIME FOR COOL HEADS SAYS MP AS HOSPITAL DEBATE TAKES NEW TWIST

New doubt surrounds the future of acute services at Winchester Hospital after plans for a new critical treatment centre were put on ice.

GP commissioners across West Hampshire and Basingstoke said they would not YET consult on plans, drawn up by Hampshire Hospitals Foundation Trust, to create the new facility near Junction 7 of the M3.

Local MP Steve Brine commented; "This is a real worry because the challenges at

Winchester's RHCH haven't gone away and patient safety has to remain our priority. We must all now work together with commissioners and providers, as well as councils, to move swiftly to a sustainable settlement for the local health economy.

"A whole system approach that is able to fully combine hospital with social care

must be right because it's increasingly clear across the NHS that the success of one is heavily reliant on the other. We need cool heads right now, I don't think grandstanding on this issue is going to help anyone."

More: www.stevebrine.com/prioritynhs



A NEW FACE AT PENGUINS



Sue Falconer and Jan Warwick with Sam and Steve at River Park.

Winchester City Penguins Swimming Club has a new face on the scene, with a new recruit from Saracens Rugby Club.

Sam Fulling previously managed the charitable arm of Saracens and is looking to bring this experience to further develop the hugely successful club alongside its existing 'learn to swim' and competitive squad programmes. He started in July and has moved to Winchester with his family from St Albans.

Local MP Steve Brine met up with Sam in June as he handed out prizes at Penguins' annual Primary Schools Swimming Gala. He said; "I've attended every year that I have been our MP, and it's always worth supporting the Penguins. I know Sam's experience will be invaluable to the club."

More: www.wcpssc.org.uk

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